



Man charged with carrying machete around mall

WEAPON A man was arrested for concealing a machete as he walked around the Halifax Shopping Centre yesterday.

A merchant reported a shopper behaving oddly and carrying what looked to be a dagger in his waistband. Two community response officers in the mall took a man into custody. Officers said the dagger turned out to be a machete.

A 19-year-old man will appear in court this afternoon charged with possessing a concealed weapon.

Another man, Ryan Allen Baker, was sent to jail for a year for waving a sword at the Halifax Shopping Centre in February 2007. He was arrested after a police officer's Taser brought him to the ground. **METRO HALIFAX**

Riding the Recession

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Auto

• In this time of penny pinching, the experts explain why you should

know the financial ins and outs of your insurance, pg 11 Tomorrow

• We give you a few budget-friendly meals your whole family will love.

Local pg 3

Bus fares on the rise



Premier Rodney MacDonald tries to compose himself as he talks about his colleague and friend Michael Baker yesterday. Baker, the provincial finance minister, passed away Monday night after a long battle with cancer.

Baker inspirational

'Words don't describe what he did:' Premier

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca



It was a sombre day in Nova Scotia politics yesterday as many paused to remember Finance Minister Michael Baker.

Baker died Monday evening at his home in Lunenburg after fighting skin cancer since 2006. He was 52 years old.

The funeral for Baker will take place tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lunenburg.

Premier Rodney MacDonald had to fight back tears as he talked to re-

porters about the loss of his friend during a late morning media scrum.

"Michael's an inspiration, to not only our caucus but all MLAs. He came to work every day," said MacDonald, who then paused for several seconds to compose himself.

"And very often in pain. How can, you know, words don't describe what he did. You know last year, during the budget when he stood there for over an hour and delivered his speech, I

think he impressed everyone."

MacDonald had visited Baker and his wife, Cindy, at their Lunenburg home just hours before Baker's death. He even joked with Baker about it being a business meeting.

"I actually started off my conversation by saying 'Michael, I'm here to brief you on the budget.' I could see his eyes light up," MacDonald recalled.

"That's the way he wanted it. He wanted to be talking about work and talking about life to the very end."

Baker inspired many by serving as finance minister, one of the most demanding posts in all of

government, throughout his illness. He leaves behind a wife and two sons, Matthew and Daniel.

Chris d'Entremont is currently handling the finance portfolio. No decision has been made on a permanent replacement.

Former premier John Hamm also sent condolences to Baker's family and praised his old colleague.

"Michael Baker was one of the finest public servants of his generation. His sharp intellect, his warm and friendly nature and his generous spirit were wonderful attributes to have around my caucus and cabinet tables," said Hamm.

Reaction pours in for MLA

LEADERS Voices were raised all across the political spectrum yesterday praising Michael Baker.

Baker had been respected by all parties. When he unveiled the provincial budget last year not all MLAs supported it. But they nonetheless all rose in a standing ovation for Baker continuing on as finance minister despite fighting skin cancer.

Yesterday NDP leader Darrell Dexter released a statement calling Baker a remarkable man.

"I first

met Michael in university and was lucky enough to form a close friendship with him," said Dexter.

"Michael's determination, intelligence, ambition for our province, and his great strength of character were evident then, and those qualities clearly served him well throughout his life."

Liberal MP Geoff Regan also sent out sympathies for Baker's family.

He said Baker was "the epitome of a public servant" who served Nova Scotians with distinction for over a decade.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay praised Baker's sense of public duty.

"I was inspired by how he stared down adversity in his own life and continued to serve the public and make a difference in our lives," said MacKay.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX



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650 Portland St.
Nova Communications
167 Trider Avenue
Wacky Wheatley's
122 Main St.

DIGBY
Peck Audiotronics
163 Hwy. 303

ELMSDALE
DownEast Communications
269 Hwy. 214

FALL RIVER
DownEast Communications
Fall River Plaza

GLACE BAY
The Rolling Phones
People's Mall

GREENWOOD
Aliant Store
Greenwood Mall

HALIFAX
Aliant Stores
Halifax Shopping Centre (upper and lower)
Scotia Square
201 Chain Lake Dr
5475 Spring Garden Road
CBCI Telecom
380 Bedford Highway
DownEast Communications
Maritime Centre
West End Mall
Quarterback Communications
102 Chain Lake Drive
Wacky Wheatley's
201 Chain Lake Dr.
Wireless Wave
Halifax Shopping Centre

LIVERPOOL
MacPhersons
137 Bristol Ave.

LOWER SACKVILLE
DownEast Communications
Sobeys, 752 Sackville Dr.
Atlantic Superstore,
745 Sackville Dr.

NEW GLASGOW
Aliant Store
Highland Square Mall

NEW MINAS
Aliant Store
County Fair Mall
Wacky Wheatley's
8961 Commercial St.

NORTH SYDNEY
The Rolling Phones
131 King's St.

PORT HAWKSBUARY
The Rolling Phones
Shediac Plaza
Sobeys, 622 Reeves St.

PORTER'S LAKE
DownEast Communications
5228 Hwy. 7

SAULNIERVILLE
Seashore Electronics/The Source by CC
Saulnierville Mall

SHELBURNE
Video Focus
32 King St.

SYDNEY
The Rolling Phones
516 Grand Lake Rd.
Mayflower Mall

SYDNEY RIVER
The Rolling Phones
Value Check Plaza

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DownEast Communications
Sobeys, Hubley Centre

TRURO
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Broad support for use of French language

Acadian and Francophone organizations from Nova Scotia committed to the continuous promotion of French language services in the province by signing a Proclamation of Social Engagement yesterday. More than 70 provincial and community-based organizations were on hand to promote the use of French language services in the province. **METRO HALIFAX**

3

Local



Coach finalist in 'most valuable' search

Wrestling coach Corey Robinson, left, of Hubbards has been selected as one of the four finalists in the Chunky Most Valuable Coach search. Robinson is the head coach of the Metro Amateur Wrestling Club in Halifax and was chosen from nearly 500 nominations submitted from sports organizations across the province. The finalists will be featured in a commercial spot on TSN. **METRO HALIFAX**

Council hikes bus fare

Rate to rise July 1 to help manage projected transit deficit

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Bus fares in Halifax are going up, despite the protests of some councillors.

Metro Transit is facing a \$16.3-million shortfall over the next five years and that money needs to come from somewhere.

After more than two hours of the debate Halifax regional council approved a bump from \$2 to \$2.25 in fares that will take place July 1.

"I've said for some time, transit is not free," said Fairview-Clayton park Coun. Russell Walker.

"This fare increase, as modest as it is, is one way to go ... I don't know of any company that keeps losing money that would say we're going to keep our fares the same."

Currently about half of Metro Transit's \$65-million budget is recouped from passengers while the other half is funded by taxpayers. The last fare increase happened four years ago in January of 2005.

Since then service, ridership and cost have increased significantly.

Several councillors opposed the price hike for various reasons. East Dartmouth-The Lakes Coun. An-



Metro Transit passengers get off the bus on Barrington Street this week. HRM council voted to increase the general bus fare to \$2.25 yesterday.

drew Younger said people have been flocking to buses to avoid high gas prices and raising fares would be counter-productive.

"Now we're going to talk about kicking a few more (people off) when they can say 'oh well now it's starting to get cheaper for me to

drive.' So, your worship, I have a lot of trouble (voting for) fare increases at this time," said Younger.

Bedford Coun. Tim Out-hit said raising fares would "penalize the people who are doing what we asked them to do, which is use public transit."

But the majority of councillors saw no acceptable alternative to pay for the budget shortfall. The price hike itself won't even be enough to cover all of it. It is expected to raise revenue by \$3.4 million per year, but the shortfall for 2010/2011 is projected at over \$7 million.

Ice jams, high water cause evacuations, road washouts

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

Two trailer parks and several roads were washed out yesterday.

The main source of the problem was ice jams on rivers, which forced the voluntary evacuation of two trailer parks. The first was on the banks of Salmon River near Bible Hill.

"There was a voluntary evacuation of about 30 residents and also there was a count of five dogs and one cat," said David Rodenhiser, spokesman for the Emergency Management Office. "They were originally evacuated to the Salmon River Fire Hall and then people went on to the homes of friends and relatives."

The ice jam eventually dislodged yesterday, easing the water levels. Residents were allowed back home to mop up.

The Blue Acres trailer park in New Glasgow was also evacuated yesterday as the East River jammed with ice. The New Glasgow News reported 20 of the park's 66 residents were rescued by late morning yesterday.

Rodenhiser said the jams

Oxford water

• Power outages were reported across Cumberland County. There was concern particularly for a power outage at the Oxford water supply. Officials there were asking residents to conserve water.

were threatening two bridges in the area and officials were monitoring the high tide to see if it would cause additional flooding and stress on the bridges.

A number of roads were washed out in the province. Musquodoboit Valley was hardest hit in the East Halifax area.

"They have to wait in some areas for the water levels to subside so they can examine the extent of the damage," said Patricia Jreige, spokeswoman for Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

But many of the affected roads were still open to traffic.

"They can still drive, but they have to drive with caution and they should really be checking the road conditions before they get behind the wheel," said Jreige.



A man and his dog attempt the sidewalk on Victoria Street in downtown Amherst yesterday morning.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video 'Failure at all levels' led to botched breast cancer tests in Newfoundland at **metronews.ca/Canada**

Analysis Rash of gang violence in

Vancouver linked to Mexican drug wars at **metronews.ca/Canada**

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Don't up minimum wage now: Group

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

Whoa — slow down on increasing the minimum wage says the Canadian Federation of Business.

An increase is scheduled for April 1, but Leanne Hachey with the CFIB said a recession isn't a good time to boost labour costs.

"We know that just under one-third of businesses cut back on employee hours and put hiring plans on hold to pay for the first increase. Who knows what will happen after this one?"

Last month, the province's minimum wage review committee recommended the in-

Earners

• The CFIB says only five per cent of Nova Scotians earn minimum wage and most of those people are young and living at home.

crease go forward despite the current economic downturn. The minimum wage will increase 6.2 per cent to \$8.60 an hour.

"Steadily increasing the minimum wage is the right thing to do for working families and individuals who are trying to build a career and contribute to society," said Mark Parent, Labour and Workforce Development minister, last month.

Nova Scotia has the

fourth lowest minimum wage in the country behind New Brunswick, B.C., and P.E.I.

But the CFIB said many business owners think the increases are going too far, too fast. A survey they conducted before the economy took a hit showed nearly half of small business owners prefer more modest increases to the minimum wage.

Hachey said a better way is to lower income taxes.

"Not only does tax relief leave more in the pockets of hard-working Nova Scotians, small business owners say it's the best way government can stimulate the economy," she said in a statement issued yesterday.

University cutting emissions

Saint Mary's 2,000-tonne reduction announced during Sustainability Week

KIM HART MACNEILL
for Metro Halifax



Energy Minister Barry Barnett kicked off the first Saint Mary's University Sustainability Week by announcing the university's switch to natural gas.

"Natural gas is a cleaner, healthier, made in Nova Scotia energy solution," Barnett said yesterday.

The change from heavy oil to natural gas cost \$1.3 million and the province's Gas Market Development Fund contributed \$993,000. The university will lower its emissions by 2,000 tonnes per year, about the same as pulling 400 cars off the road.

The Sustainability Task Force organized this week's

event. It practised what it preach by offering a litter-free snack of apples, and providing water glasses and ceramic coffee mugs for beverages.

Displays illustrating green practices at St. Mary's lined the walls. One such display shows the 80,000 pieces of paper saved when the university committed to closely monitor its paper use last year.

A giant mobile of reusable shopping bags, batteries, and drink packages hung from the ceiling. The custodial staff built it to illustrate the four Rs: Recy-

cle, reduce, reuse and re-think.

But not all of the displays were motivational.

A pile of clear bags filled with unsorted trash illustrated the need for education. The bags were collected from four-stream refuse cans on campus, which divide paper, plastics, cans and organics.

"We have the four bins with the educational posters above them, all over campus," said Catherine McCarthy, a university spokeswoman.

"But this is the reality," she said pointing at the waist-high pile of bags.

"Natural gas is a cleaner, healthier, made-in-Nova Scotia energy solution."

Barry Barnett,
energy minister



A display at Saint Mary's Sustainability Fair yesterday shows items are not being properly recycled.

Go ahead and toss your junk?

Please litter.

That's the message the provincial Department of Environment is sending to Nova Scotians in a new campaign.

Sounds crazy, doesn't it? That's what they think, too, and that's the impact they want to have on anyone who will listen.

"Everyone knows this is wrong, so why is litter up?" environment department communications adviser Janet Lynn McNeil said.

"Litter has gone up 21 per cent from four years ago. Those numbers were really disappointing and shocking because people have been more environmentally friendly recently."

That may even be part of the problem, she surmised.

"In terms of environmental issues, litter has fallen off the radar. We want to make sure people pay attention ... We are asking all



A pile of garbage sits on the Halifax Common yesterday.

Nova Scotians to pledge not to litter."

That pledge can be taken at the website www.bestthingyoullneverdo.ca.

McNeil refers to the month-long campaign, which started Monday, as something "bold and innovative" for the Department of Environment.

"It's really up to all of us

to do something about it ... Sometimes we just need a friendly reminder. That is why we did the survey. It's a call to action."

The campaign will feature the radio spots across the province as well as large posters on bus shelters in areas with public transit.

THE NEW GLASGOW NEWS

For-profit daycare getting chilly reception from union

A "big-box" daycare isn't getting the warmest of receptions in Halifax.

Kids and Company, a national daycare chain, is set to open a location here soon. But the Canadian Union of Public Employees is calling it a "major step backwards for the sector."

"We do not want to see a large Ontario-based corporation moving into Nova Scotia to make millions of dollars from providing more for-profit childcare," said CUPE Nova Scotia president Danny Cavanagh in a statement.

The union represents 11 non-profit daycare centres throughout the province.

Kids and Company is

members-only. Companies pay to reserve spots for their employees' children.

"They have a lot of huge corporate clients (nationally)," Andrew Doyle, president of Extreme Group, told Metro in December.

"It's actually a retention tool for a lot of companies to say they offer this service."

Extreme Group is the public relations firm hired by Kids and Company and was the daycare's first client in Halifax.

CUPE said Kids and Company has two information sessions booked this week at Dalhousie University at the IWK.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/
METRO HALIFAX

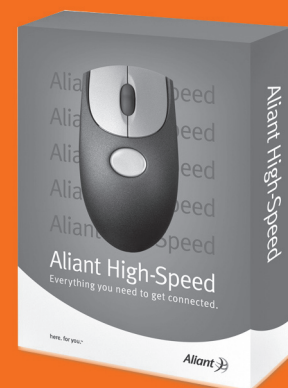
News in brief

YARMOUTH The Port of Yarmouth has released the recommendations from a comprehensive master plan study. The recommendations are meant to guide the direction the port could head in in future years. They focus on developing Yarmouth as an international gateway to the province, expanding marine-based tourism, developing a signature waterfront attraction, investing in infrastructure improvements and reorienting port facilities; and enhancing service for fishing fleets.

NEW GLASGOW Winners will be officially open for business at 9:30 a.m. on March 26. The discount department store will occupy a 22,000-square-foot space at Highland Square Shopping Centre in New Glasgow formerly occupied by Canadian Tire. The company is still in the process of hiring between 40 and 50 staff to fill both full-time and part-time positions. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Art gallery asking for a tax break

The Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design is asking the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to waive its \$30,000 property tax bill indefinitely. Carol Beaton, executive director of the art gallery, said money needed to fund the tax bill represents one-third of the centre's annual revenue. **CAPE BRETON POST**

Plenty of doubts in Doubt

Play made famous by Oscar-nominated film set to open

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax



Stuart Hughes knows what Father Flynn did, but he's not telling anyone.

"I know for myself and I feel very firm in my convictions," the actor says of his role as the priest accused of child abuse in *Doubt*, Neptune's stage version of the Oscar-nominated film, which officially opens on Friday.

"I think he has doubts, but what those doubts are aren't necessarily as they are perceived by the other characters. It really is a mystery play."

Doubt, A Parable, tells the story of Flynn and Sister Aloysius (Fiona Reid), two devout Catholics struggling over the post-Vatican II Church. Flynn wants a tolerant, open faith, while Aloysius thinks Frosty the Snowman is spreading pagan propaganda. The wily nun suspects Flynn of taking advantage of a boy at the



Father Flynn (Stuart Hughes) and Sister Aloysius (Fiona Reid) butt heads in *Doubt* which opens Friday at Neptune Theatre.

school; the pair clash viciously as Aloysius tries to oust Flynn.

Hughes says the "ugly" accusation at the root of the play makes the fighting bitter.

"When we talk about a

child potentially being molested ... it gets into real mucky ground."

The priest is clearly troubled by something, but whether it's abuse, his faith, or his own sexuality is left for the viewer to de-

Play details

- *Doubt, A Parable*, is at Neptune Theatre until March 29. Go to Neptunetheatre.com or call 429-7070 for more information.

cide. Director Ron Ulrich sat down with Hughes and Reid to decide the truth as each character sees it, but kept both actors in the dark about what the other is thinking.

Audiences in Edmonton have gotten so caught up in the play that they've shouted warnings to the characters on stage.

Ulrich maintains the subtle intensity of John Patrick Shanley's play, locking the characters into just a few settings and not having children appear.

"It makes for a stronger play because the room for doubt is so much greater," Ulrich explains. "You're left wide open in doubt. It's pretty cool."

Province adds a pair of new Crown attorneys

LAW Nova Scotia has two new Crown attorneys this week.

Paul Carver was appointed a Crown attorney in the Dartmouth office of the Public Prosecution Service yesterday.

Carver was born in Halifax and graduated from Dalhousie law school in 1992.

This is his second time with the Public Prosecution Service. He was a

Crown attorney in 1995, but left to practise privately for two years.

In 2007 he returned to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada prosecuting drug offenses.

Halifax native Leigh-Ann Bryson is the new Crown attorney in the Bridgewater office. This increases the number of Crown attorneys in Bridgewater to three.

METRO HALIFAX

Railway group frustrated with Conservatives' lack of action

FEES The Cape Breton Railway Victims Association says it has waited long enough for information from the provincial government and is going to "vigorously pursue action" from opposition parties and municipalities.

Association chairman Ken Jardine said that Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald promised "every co-operation" from government last year in reviewing existing laws in the group's fight with the Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway over railway access and land lease fees.

He said the premier promised Justice Minister

Cecil Clarke would look into legislation last August, and at a public meeting two weeks ago, Conservative MLA Keith Bain said Clarke was travelling and needed another 10 days.

With still no response from Clarke, Jardine said the Conservatives' time is up and he is already scheduling meetings with the Liberal and NDP leaders, and is waiting to hear about action from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

"It's in the scheduling stage," he said. "As far as the government of Nova Scotia, we're done with them."

CAPE BRETON POST

Springhill jail in lockdown mode

AMMUNITION More than 400 inmates at the local medium-security penitentiary in Springhill have been in locked down after ammunition was found in the main parking lot outside the institution's perimeter fence.

Shannon Oickle, chief administration and material management, confirmed the institution has been in lockdown since Friday after a correctional staff member found several live rounds of ammunition.

Springhill Institution is a medium-security federal penitentiary that houses 436 male offenders.

METRO HALIFAX

More than 30 comedians set to descend on Halifax festival

COMEDY The lineup for the 14th annual Halifax Comedy Festival was announced yesterday and it includes headliners like Michael Winslow from the Police Academy movies, Eddie Brill from *The Late Show With David Letterman* and Last Comic Standing winner Dat Phan.

Other notables from the 30-plus comedians taking to the stage next month include former *Queer As Folk* star Hal Sparks, Just For Laughs veteran Andrew Grose, Sean Cullen from CBC Radio's *Simply Sean*, Steve Patterson from



Eddie Brill

CBC Radio's *The Debaters* and Mark Critch from

More info

- For a complete schedule of events, visit www.halifaxcomedyfest.ca.

CBC's *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.

This year's festival will run from April 20 to 25 at various venues throughout the city.

Tickets for the opening-night gala at the Casino Nova Scotia Schooner Show Room on April 21 are going for \$29.

METRO HALIFAX

Pair of masked robberies on Monday

CRIME Two men wearing Halloween monkey masks tried to rob the Tim Hortons on Pleasant Street on Monday night.

Just before 8:30 p.m., two men — one carrying a knife — tried to get money from the employees. They were unsuccessful and left on foot.

Meanwhile, a man carrying a knife robbed the Elmsdale Petro-Canada on

Monday night.

The man wearing a gray hoodie pulled over his head demanded money from the clerk at 9:49 p.m.

The suspect was also wearing a black ski face mask and gloves. Police say his entire body was covered by clothing. He took off with an undisclosed amount of cash and Enfield RCMP are investigating.

METRO HALIFAX

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Believing he was acting on orders from God, Vincent Li allegedly attacked a stranger on a Greyhound bus in Manitoba last summer, mutilating his victim before decapitating him and cannibalizing part of the body. Li pleaded not guilty yesterday in Winnipeg to a charge of second-degree murder. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada/World

Official raps staff, feds over 19-year-old prisoner's suicide

The federal government and others have a responsibility to finally answer Ashley Smith's desperate cry for help, Canada's correctional investigator Howard Sapers says.

Sapers presented his A Preventable Death report yesterday with "considerable sadness and frustration" and emphasized the deeply troubled Moncton, N.B., teenager's death in a Kitchener prison was another example of the systemic failures of the federal prison system.

The 19-year-old Smith, described as mentally ill and suicidal, bounced around the federal prison system until she "needlessly" died by her own

Moved around

- Smith was an inmate at the Grand Valley Institute for Women in Kitchener when she committed suicide on Oct. 19, 2007.

- She had been in the federal correctional system about 11 months and had been transferred 17 times, serving two stints at the Grand Valley site.

hand in October 2007 while prison staff stood by and watched, Sapers told a press conference.

"I urge the federal, provincial and territorial government to develop a national strategy to ensure better co-ordination among correctional and mental health systems nationwide," the investigator said.

"Simply and sadly put, if not for the glaring void

of mental health services for children, youth and offenders in Canada, Ashley Smith would likely never have ended up in a federal penitentiary where she ended her life," he said.

Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan said many changes have recently been made in the corrections system to respond to mental health challenges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Abused dog now thriving in Vermont

PETS Michou, a Quebec poodle who was left in a frozen car for 19 days, is thriving with new owners, an animal control officer in Vermont said. Michou lost more than half his body weight as he sat starving and dehydrated in the freezing cold and was near death inside the Eurovan of his Quebec owner, who had flown off from the Burlington, Vt., international airport.

After finally being rescued, he was somehow able to pull through. In Vermont have called him the "miracle dog."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Super 7 nixed for new nationwide lottery

GAMING A new and yet-to-be-named game is waiting in the wings to replace Super 7, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission announced yesterday.

The new national lottery will include "big jackpots and more millionaires than ever before," said spokesperson Rui Brum.

The final Super 7 drawing will be Sept. 18. If no one has all seven numbers, the final jackpot will be split among the holders of tickets with six numbers.

The new game will begin the following Friday.

Brum said the change comes after the Interprovincial Lottery Corp. interviewed more than 20,000 lottery players to find out what they wanted. "They were asking for big jackpots and more millionaires."

The troubled economy did not factor into the decision. "No, not at all," he said. "We find that the prime determinate for player participation in the lottery is the jackpot size."

Brum says bigger jackpots will not make the game harder to win. "The odds are always the same."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New York City Citizens welcome U2 Way



Members of rock band U2, Adam Clayton, second from right, Bono, centre, and Edge, second from left, hold street signs next to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, right, and city council Speaker Christine Quinn after a portion of West 53rd Street was renamed U2 Way in New York yesterday. U2's new album No Line on the Horizon was released yesterday.

Clinton still sees Palestinian state

No other way to end bloodshed, says U.S.

A Palestinian state, Hillary Clinton said yesterday, is in Israel's best interests.

Many Israelis, not least supporters of the likely incoming government, do not see it that way. And many Palestinians are giving up hope that continuing the U.S.-backed "peace process" can deliver them the independent state Clinton is talking about.

On her first visit to Jerusalem as U.S. secretary of state, Clinton's assertion that "a two-state solution is inescapable" was pointed. Incoming prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is strenuously avoiding committing to a Palestinian

"The headline of 'two states for two peoples' may have to be interpreted in different ways."

Zalman Shoval, Likud

state as he tries to form a ruling coalition.

Her comments reflect near-unanimity among western diplomats that there is no other way out of 60-odd years of bloodshed.

Netanyahu is not opposed to Palestinian statehood, but says it should have limited sovereignty

and not be the guaranteed outcome of negotiations. The formulation "two states for two peoples," used by Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. leaders who relaunched talks at Annapolis in 2007 is not one he favours.

"The headline of 'two states for two peoples' may have to be interpreted in different ways," said Zalman Shoval, foreign relations chief of Likud.

"Whether at the end of the day it's called a Palestinian state, or a state with limited sovereignty ... that is something that will have to come out of the negotiations," Shoval said. **REUTERS**

News in brief

MEXICO Hundreds of heavily armed soldiers fanned out across Mexico's bloodiest drug war city of Ciudad Juarez yesterday, trying to prevent a collapse in law and order just south of the U.S. border.

SRI LANKA Troops yesterday seized the last road junction held by the Tamil Tigers, and now have about three kilometres left to capture before reaching a final showdown in the 25-year-old Sri Lankan war, the military said. **REUTERS**

Pakistani police seek cricket team's attackers

AMBUSH Pakistani police hunted for gunmen who mounted the bold attack on Sri Lanka's cricket team in Lahore yesterday and officials scrambled to figure out who was behind it.

The attack that killed eight people, six of them Pakistani police, plunged Pakistan into a "state of war," Rehman Malik, the prime minister's interior

adviser, said.

Six members of the Sri Lankan team and a British coach were wounded in the daylight attack as their bus approached the cricket stadium.

None were so seriously hurt they had to be left behind when the squad departed for Colombo last night.

REUTERS

metro's kool

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We Play Anything.

Former HP chief has breast cancer surgery

Former Hewlett-Packard co-chief executive and high-profile Republican Carly Fiorina had breast cancer surgery on Monday, and hopes to be recovered within months. **REUTERS**

7

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Banks still able to turn a profit

Canada's banks remained profitable even as the global financial crisis deepened, but results from two big players show bad loans on the upswing.

Bank of Nova Scotia, Canada's third-largest lender, reported weaker earnings per share yesterday as provisions for bad loans more than doubled and its payout of preferred share dividends rose.

Bank of Montreal, the No. 5 lender, reported a 12 per cent fall in net income, hurt by charges tied

Bank of Canada cuts key rate

• The Bank of Canada cut its main interest rate to a record low yesterday and signalled it may take extra steps to pump money into a system that remains stubbornly short of credit. The bank reduced its key overnight rate by a half point to 0.5 per cent.

to volatile capital markets and an 86 per cent jump in provisions for credit losses.

"Although the core results are doing fine, we have a continued deterioration of credit quality, which is going to be the focus of the market going

forward," said John Aiken, an analyst at Dundee Capital Markets.

"(Earnings) more than likely are going to stay positive, but they're going to be lower than where we stand today because of credit losses."

REUTERS

Hot car Z-one makes its debut



A model poses in front of a Z-one car by South African producer Perana designed by Italian design company Zagato at the 79th Geneva Car Show at the Palexpo in Geneva yesterday.

Fed chair defends latest AIG bailout

BAILOUT U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke yesterday defended the government's latest bailout of embattled insurer AIG, telling irate lawmakers that he was also angry, but that the failure to act could have triggered an economic disaster.

Pressed by a Senate committee to justify the latest in an expanding se-

ries of bailouts for American International Group, Bernanke said there was no alternative, even though the company had been irresponsible.

"We know that failure of major financial firms in a financial crisis can be disastrous for the economy. We really had no choice," he told the panel.

REUTERS

Vale Inco cutting 423 Canadian jobs

MINING Toronto-based Vale Inco, the nickel mining and processing division of Brazil's Companhia Vale do Rio Doce, said yesterday it will eliminate about 900 full-time jobs in the face of slumping prices, with 423 of the cuts at its Canadian operations.

REUTERS

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Joseph Zatzman joins N.S. Business Hall of Fame

After a career spanning seven decades, all-around businessman Joseph Zatzman will be inducted into the Junior Achievement Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame in June. Since 1993, 56 individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. The event has raised more than \$1.5 million, money which has gone directly to support program delivery by Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia. This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning.
Sign up today for the
DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ
nsbj.ca

Business in brief

STOCKS Shares of Magna Entertainment will be delisted from the Toronto Stock Exchange as of April 1, the besieged horse

racing and gaming company said yesterday, after it failed to meet the exchange's continued listing requirements. **REUTERS**

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Comment

The one feel-good story

Aussie tourism contest helping to warm up a dreary winter

The WestView



The news is pretty grim these days (that's an understatement), but if you haven't heard about The Best Job in The World, you're missing the one news story on the planet guaranteed to make you feel better and get you through the rest of this #\$\$^&*! winter of '09.

Back in January, someone in the Queensland Department of Tourism had an inspired idea. What if we start a job search for the best job in the world? And so they did, and they're not kidding. Based on all criteria and the Geneva Convention, this is the best job in the world. It's a six-month contract for a "caretaker" for the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef.

The successful applicant basically plays tourist on some of the world's most beautiful tropical islands, is required to blog about their experience once a week, and gets paid the equivalent of about \$124,000 for the, um, task.

You're immediately tempted to ask, "what's the catch?" And those clever Aussies have that one listed in their website's FAQ, under "Is this a real job?" assuring visitors that yes, it is and no, there is no catch. Just apply, mate.

Sadly, while I was dreaming about refilling the towel dispensers on Daydream Island, just one of the 900 islands in the world's largest coral reef system, 34,684 real applicants got busy and sent in their applications, which include a one-minute video. So many people just wanted to bang on their

drum all day, they crashed the site.

Tourism Queensland has just announced the top 50 applicants and the lucky 50 and their videos are posted on www.islandreefjob.com. You can vote for your favourite, and the applicant with the most votes gets an interview along with 10 others selected by Tourism Queensland. It is a "real job," after all.

Of course, anyone can see through all this malarkey. It's just the most clever tourism promotion ever.

Of course, anyone can see through all this malarkey. It's just the most clever tourism promotion ever. And it doesn't hurt that it's the antidote to the worst winter in the worst economy in decades.

Maybe that's why such a disproportionate number of the final 50 are Canadians. Desperation breeds creativity. Three are from B.C., one is from Alberta and two are from Ontario.

Anny Chih of Vancouver gets big marks for her irre-

sistibly cute video, but Mitchell from Ontario is the Canadian to beat. He staged a musical job application on a busy downtown street with a cast of dozens that rivals the best of Broadway. Mamma Mia!

So most of us aren't going to get the job of island caretaker, but at least we can vote for our choice. Maybe they'll send us a sack of sand in gratitude. We better roll up our sleeves, though, because Mitchell's currently in second place behind Julia, the Russian Bond girl, who is way out in the lead with 4005 votes and counting.

Then again, maybe you'd consider a write-in campaign for me, your favourite columnist.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

VideoOnline

Check out one of the video applications online at metronews.ca/thewestview

LEADERSHIP IN AN ERA OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY:



Metro Online Poll Results

29% SAID YES

Do you think the Mounties who confronted Robert Dziekanski acted appropriately?

71% SAID NO

Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

Worth mentioning

U.S. scientists no longer endangered

ENVIRONMENT U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday directed U.S. government agencies to consult with scientists before taking action that could harm endangered species, rolling back last-minute rules put forward by former president George W. Bush.

Obama, a Democrat who has spent much of his first six weeks in office undoing policies of his Republican predecessor, signed a memo urging agencies such as the Department of Transportation to consult with government scientists before pursuing projects that could hurt threatened animals.

"Today I've signed a memorandum that will help restore the scientific process to its rightful place at the heart of the Endan-

gered Species Act, a process undermined by past administrations," Obama said to applause.

"The work of scientists and experts in my administration ... will be respected. For more than three decades, the Endangered Species Act has successfully protected our nation's most threatened wildlife, and we should be looking for ways to improve it — not weaken it."

Representative Edward Markey of Massachusetts, who chairs a Congressional committee on energy independence and global warming, welcomed the move.

"Today proves that, under an Obama administration, scientists are no longer an endangered species," he said in a statement.

REUTERS

Word on the street: Aside from your mother, who is the most influential woman in your life?

Bojana Nedic
Halifax

A: My baka (grandma). She's pretty cool ... She's always been there for me and told me to stay strong and given me support no matter what.

Kamran Eskandari
Halifax

A: My grandmother — she took care of me when I was a little baby. She told me stories and read storybooks to me. It made me a better reader.

Caitlyn Holmes
Halifax

A: A family friend. Her name is Heather. She's an art teacher. She actually inspired me to be a teacher myself.

Clementine Iweh
age 44,
Vancouver

A: My choice is Oprah. She's an inspirational lady and touches everybody from various ethnic groups and she's a philanthropist.

Robert Talbot
age 27, Ottawa

A: My wife, because she's a very intelligent person and helps me make decisions when I'm sitting on the fence.

Tara Town
age 23, Toronto

A: My best friend ... We grew up together and ... she just knows me a lot more than all the other friends.




It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Search called off for missing NFL players
The U.S. Coast Guard called off the search yesterday for NFL players Marquis Cooper, Corey Smith and a third man missing in the Gulf of Mexico after their boat capsized during a fishing trip off the Florida coast Saturday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



“Don Cherry is like Rush Limbaugh and President Obama is in office ... Change has come. It is like oxygen, get used to it.”

Washington Capitals owner Ted Leonsis, left, reacting on his blog, www.tedstake.com, to comments Cherry made saying Alex Ovechkin celebrates too much after scoring.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

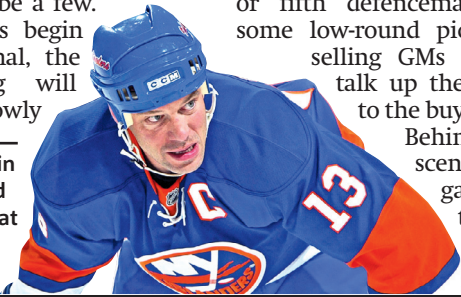
Deadline daze?

Coffee brewed, scouting charts laid out, and lists of wants and needs neatly organized, the general managers of the NHL's 30 teams will meet in boardrooms across North America this morning for the trade deadline.

Around them will be their confidantes, assistants and scouting directors ready to dial the phones, buzz the blackberries, text the messages, e the mail.

Reputations will be carved, saviours will be anointed, nerves will be frayed, and regrets — there'll be a few. If things begin as normal, the morning will go slowly

Bill Guerin remained in limbo at press time.



The players

Most likely to be traded

- C Bill Guerin, Islanders
- D Derek Morris ,Coyotes
- D Filip Kuba, Senators
- C Tim Connolly, Sabres
- G Pascal Leclaire, Blue Jackets
- C Olli Jokinen Coyotes

Don't be surprised

- C Jason Spezza, Senators
- RW Marian Gaborik, Wild
- C Jordan Staal, Penguins

- D Brian Campbell, Blackhawks
- F Brian Gionta, Devils

Also available

- F Sergei Kostitsyn, Canadiens
- LW Mason Raymond, Canucks
- RW Kris Chucko, Flames
- C Rob Schremp, Oilers
- G Erik Ersberg, Kings

from a public perspective: Perhaps a few fourth liners, or fifth defenceman for some low-round picks as selling GMs try to talk up the price to the buyers.

Behind the scenes, organization

quickly descends into chaos. Deals talked about for weeks can be thrown out, while deals born at 1 p.m. can be consummated at 1:10 p.m.

Once the first big domino falls — Chris Pronger? Tomas Kaberle? — there will be a rush of deals to the 4 p.m. deadline.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Devils keep rolling against Leafs

NHL RECAP

Devils 3 Maple Leafs 2 (OT)

NHL Johnny Oduya scored the game-winning goal with 11.4 seconds remaining in overtime as Atlantic Division-leading New Jersey edged Toronto last night at the Air Canada Centre.

With the score deadlocked at 2-2 at the end of regulation, each team had several chances in the extra period, but Toronto got caught in an odd-man rush late and the Devils ended it. David Clarkson and Patrik Elias also tallied for the Devils, who have won four in a row, and nine of their last 11 overall. They maintained a nine-point lead over Philadelphia for the top spot in the division.

Martin Brodeur was steady between the pipes for New Jersey, turning aside 30-of-32 shots and now has 548 career wins, three shy of Patrick Roy for most by a goaltender in



Mikhail Grabovski is stopped by Martin Brodeur last night.

league history.

FLYERS 4 BRUINS 2

Simon Gagne scored twice and set up another tally, as Philadelphia used a three-goal third period to upend Boston at TD Banknorth Garden.

Mike Knuble registered a goal and two assists in his 800th career game, while Scottie Upshall also found the net for the Flyers, who snapped a two-game losing streak and won for the sixth time in their last nine games. Antero Niittymaki was solid between the pipes for Philadelphia, making 22 saves to improve his record

to 15-5-5 on the season.

Patrice Bergeron and Stephane Yelle both notched a power-play goal for the East-leading Bruins, who have been struggling recently, losing eight of their last 11 games. Manny Fernandez allowed four goals on 26 shots in defeat.

PENGUINS 3, LIGHTNING 1

Chris Kunitz found the net on two occasions, leading surging Pittsburgh over Tampa Bay last night.

Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby missed his fourth straight game with a nagging groin injury.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

NHL Sean Avery's return to the NHL was finalized yesterday, as the New York Rangers claimed him off re-entry waivers from the Dallas Stars. The Stars placed the embattled forward on re-entry waivers Monday, after Avery had not suited up for the club since his inappropriate comments in Calgary on Dec. 2. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SCOREBOARD

QM/JHL

	ATLANTIC DIVISION
	W L OT P
x-Moncton	44 12 6 94
x-Cape Breton	43 17 4 90
x-Saint John	30 27 4 64
P.E.I.	23 30 9 55
Bathurst	20 28 13 53
HALIFAX	17 38 6 40

x-clinched playoff spot

SATURDAY'S GAME

HALIFAX at Acadie-Bathurst, 7

PBL

	ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
	W L PCT
Manchester	13 3 .813
Vermont	9 6 .600
Halifax	9 7 .563
Montreal	3 8 .273
Quebec	3 11 .214

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Calgary 6 Ottawa 3
Nashville 6 Edmonton 5 (OT)
New Jersey 3 Toronto 2 (OT)
Carolina 5 Washington 2
Columbus 5 Los Angeles 4
Florida 4 Atlanta 3
Philadelphia 4 Boston 2
Pittsburgh 3 Tampa Bay 1
Anaheim at Chicago
Detroit at St. Louis
Minnesota at Vancouver
Dallas at San Jose

NBA Nash back in Suns lineup



Steve Nash passes against the Orlando Magic last night. Nash returned to the Phoenix lineup after missing three games with an ankle injury. The Suns lost to the Magic 111-99 as Dwight Howard out-battled Shaquille O'Neal.

Trade baiting

- Leafs Dominic Moore and Nik Antropov were held out of last night's game in anticipation of potential deals.

More audition than exhibition

Canada 6 Blue Jays 4



BASEBALL Before yesterday's 6-4 win over the Blue Jays, team Canada manager Ernie Whitt wondered how he would distribute three exhibition games among just 13 pitchers.

He might have to manage playing time behind the plate just as carefully.

Speaking to reporters after yesterday's game Russell Martin, Canada's starting catcher, mentioned that he's still recovering from a mid-foot sprain. Martin says he's the foot is almost back to normal after nearly three weeks of rehab, but said the lingering injury still limits his defensive mobility.

"It's 100 times better than what it was," said Martin, a two-time all-star with the



Canada's Scott Richmond threw two innings against his own team, the Blue Jays, yesterday.

L.A. Dodgers. Martin's sore foot adds another variable to a team with an already depleted pitching staff.

The absences of Ryan Dempster, Rich Harden and Erik Bedard leave yesterday's starter, Blue Jays hopeful Scott Richmond, as the anchor of an inexperienced

staff. Yesterday Richmond surrendered four hits and two runs to a Jays lineup that included just two full-time big leaguers.

Still, Richmond says his arm is already strong enough to handle the tournament's first round, where starters are limited to 65 pitches.

After throwing 45 pitches against the Jays, he trotted to the bullpen and threw 20 more.

For Richmond, the game wasn't just a tuneup for the World Baseball Classic, but part of his continuing audition for a spot on the Jays' rotation. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Koskie leads way

- Appearing in his first game since suffering a career-threatening concussion in 2006, Corey Koskie scored three runs for Canada yesterday.

Two Dalhousie Tigers track-and-field standouts swept Atlantic University Sport's athlete-of-the-week awards yesterday: Pentathlon and 60-metre hurdles champ Rob McCulloch, and 1,000- and 1,500-metre winner Caroline Schlosser. **METRO HALIFAX**

Three X-Men sidelined

Players charged with assault ordered to sit out championship

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Halifax basketball star Tyler Richards may finish his illustrious university career on the sidelines.

The fifth-year St. Francis Xavier X-Men guard and two of his teammates were ordered yesterday by his school to sit out the three-day Atlantic University Sport Final 6 championship, which starts tomorrow at the Metro Centre.

Richards, Eamon Morrissey of Halifax and William Donkoh of Nepean, Ont., were charged Monday with assault causing bodily harm. St. F.X. athletic director Leo MacPherson announced yesterday morning that the three X-Men will not play until the school has investigated the matter. Richards, who finished second in conference scoring, learned of the news on the same day he was named a first-team AUS all-star.

"It's in their best interest not to be in the lineup



St. Francis Xavier X-Men guard Tyler Richards and two teammates were ordered yesterday by their school to sit out the three-day Atlantic University Sport Final 6 championship.

pending further investigation," said MacPherson. "It's not a suspension of the players, it's not any indication that they are guilty of these charges, it's not about

winning basketball games. This is about being fair and not jumping into knee-jerk reactions."

The charges stem from a Feb. 21 incident in which a

Atlantic all-stars

The Saint Mary's Huskies' backcourt duo of Joey Hayward and Mark McLaughlin has been named to the Atlantic University Sport men's basketball first all-star team.

St. Francis Xavier X-Men teammates Tyler Richards and Christian Upshaw, both of Halifax, also made the team.

Dalhousie Tigers guard Simon Farine and North Preston's Tremaine Fraser of the Cape Breton Capers cracked the second team, while Halifax's Casey Fox of the Acadia Axemen and Simon Marr of Saint Mary's earned all-rookie honours.

student was assaulted. A court date of May 4 has been set.

MacPherson said the investigation could take up to three weeks, but said he will revisit his decision to sit the trio next week if the X-Men advance to nationals.

Huskies take lead in hockey semifinals

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

AUS PLAYOFFS The Saint Mary's Huskies are a win away from a trip to nationals.

Chris Morrison scored the winner in double overtime as the Huskies defeated the host Moncton Aigles Bleus 4-3 in the Atlantic University Sport men's hockey semifinals last night.

The Huskies are up 2-1 in the best-of-five series.

Morrison, a third-year defenceman, found the net on a shot from the point through traffic 7:37 into the frame.

"It was a tight game all over," said Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg.

"We played well. There were highs and lows, but we found a way to get it done. That's the bottom line."

The Huskies, who are known to rely on their power play, hadn't scored at even strength since Feb. 14. But they broke out last night, scoring all of their goals while 5-on-5.

Blue-liners accounted for three goals, with Andrew Hotham and David MacDonald joining Morrison on the score sheet.

Forward Scott Brophy chipped in with the other.

Huskies goaltender Brandon Verge turned aside 40 shots and Stienburg called his play "unbe-

lievable."

The Huskies return to Halifax for practice today and travel to Moncton for Game 4 tomorrow.

The winner of the series advances to the AUS final and clinches one of the conference's two berths at the University Cup.

"There were highs and lows, but we found a way to get it done."

Huskies coach
Trevor Stienburg



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Metro Drive

Prius tops again

Despite the arrival of more gasoline/electric hybrids, the Toyota Prius took Consumer Reports' top "green" award for the sixth straight year, Canadian Driver reports. Other 2009 top picks included Hyundai Elantra SE for small sedan and Toyota RAV4 for small SUV.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Grow your greens with Ford

Upcoming Fusion Hybrid's a handsome machine with an eco heart

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

My Ford Fusion is sprouting leaves. The gauge starts with a branch, and as I drive along with my foot as light as possible on the throttle, the greenery starts to grow. Eventually, I'm rewarded with a forest for my fuel-miserly method.

Naturally, this is no ordinary Fusion. Ford's midsize sedan is overhauled for 2010, with all receiving new engines and six-speed automatic transmissions. My ride, the Fusion Hybrid, is the first time it's been offered as a gasoline-electric hybrid.

It uses a 2.5 L four-cylinder engine with electric motor, nickel hydride (NiMH) battery pack, and a continuously variable transmission (CVT). The combination produces 155 horsepower and 136 lb-ft of torque.

It's a "full" hybrid and can run on electricity alone, something its only domestic competitor, the Chevrolet Malibu/Saturn Aura Hybrid, cannot. Ford says it'll stay on battery power alone at speeds up to 75 km/h. As

The 2010 Fusion Hybrid is the first time the model's been offered as a gasoline-electric hybrid.



with every current factory hybrid, the Fusion Hybrid doesn't get plugged in, but uses energy from braking to recharge the battery.

In the U.S., Fusion rates at 5.7 L/100 km in the city. Our testing methods will give slightly different numbers, but Ford says it'll be the most fuel-efficient midsize sedan available.

Although the Hybrid's exterior doesn't look any different from its conventional siblings, save for its badges,

the instrument cluster contains Ford's new "Smart-Gauge," including a system it calls EcoGuide. Two LCD screens on either side of the speedometer are configurable through wheel-mounted buttons to four levels. Each adds information, starting with the simplest display of fuel and battery charge status; from there, you can add items such as a gauge to show when the car's running on electricity, power consumption

from accessories, power output, and the foliage feature. It's gimmicky, but it's fun: Drive more economically, and the branches sprout more leaves, while a lead foot makes them fall off.

The gauge I found most useful was the engine threshold, which shows how close the car is to switching to either gasoline or electricity. You can't manually control it, in that there's no button to go

back or forth; rather, the system determines it by how much power is required. Knowing how close you are to the threshold lets you adjust your driving for maximum efficiency.

A hybrid has to work as a driving machine too, and for that, Ford's done a very good job. The switch from gasoline to electric is seamless, and the car is very quiet. Steering is responsive, highway performance is fine, and when needed, it's

2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid

Type: Mid-size hybrid sedan
Price: Not available
Engine: 2.5 L four-cylinder engine with electric motor, nickel hydride (NiMH) battery pack
HP: 155

Highlights

- Eco-friendly and fuel efficient
- Improved interior

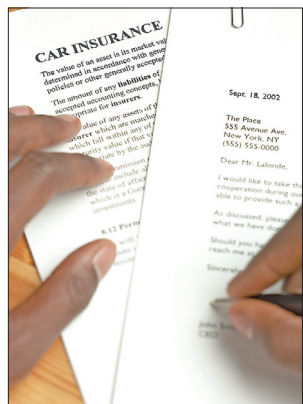
very peppy and has power for highway passing.

The new styling is handsome, and the interior is a considerable improvement over the outgoing model in quality of materials and workmanship. Expect this one to do well for itself when it arrives in Canada.

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Read at
metronews.ca/autopilot



Companies could have hugely varying car insurance rates.

Shop around for best insurance deals, experts say

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Vehicle insurance can be one of the most expensive portions of your yearly budget, and one of the most frustrating to understand. Since it's mandatory to have insurance in order to drive a vehicle anywhere in Canada, there are a few things we can do to

change our situation, both for new car buyers and existing owners. While it may only end up being a savings of \$50, in these touchy economic times, that \$50 can go a long way.

Andrew Wicken, general manager of InsuranceHotline.com, says that shopping around is the easiest way to try and save money. The services provided at InsuranceHotline.com in-

Riding the Recession

clude the option to compare up to 30 different quotes from various insurance companies across Canada.

"While the coverage itself remains the same, the difference comes from

how those companies internally deal with risk and other factors," Wicken said. Companies could have hugely varying rates depending on which customer type they're trying to attract and what other promotions they might have running.

David Hackett, of Markham, Ont.-based Buckley Insurance believes that when it comes to factors di-

rectly influencing the quote, things like location and vehicle type perhaps are the most obvious ones, although being a better driver certainly helps as well.

"Keep a clean driving record," he said. "Seeing the number of tickets and charges on your licence is extremely easy for an insurance company to do nowadays, and that usually leads to higher rates."



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The Bimbo Gami shrine, about four hours' drive from Tokyo, lets visitors shake off their financial doldrums by hitting a wooden statue representing the God of Poverty. Visitors can beat, kick and throw dried beans at the god to vent their anger. **REUTERS**

Travel



Is he kidding?

Michael O'Leary, the CEO of budget airline Ryanair, has caused a minor furore by musing that passengers may soon have to pay to use on-board washrooms. But since O'Leary is also well-known for his PR-generating abilities, no one's sure yet whether he's joking.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Essential Essaouira

Moroccan city is quiet, yet surprising

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News



Why go now?

On the receiving end of trade winds on Morocco's Atlantic coast, the so-called "city of wind" has a mild climate all year round, between 17 C and 25 C. It's also fairly quiet, though in summer it does see more European tourists. Better yet, prices are still accessible in Morocco's most surprising city.

It's my first time visiting. What should I do there?

To get there, you can fly into Marrakech and take a coach or shared taxi to Essaouira. Take a stroll around the pedestrian streets of the Medina or walled town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. As well as shops and cafés you'll find traces of the Portuguese who occupied the



An evening view of the walled town or Medina in Essaouira, Morocco.

city in the 15th century, and named it Mogador.

Some sites are very well preserved including the fortress and the skala of the kasbah (the fortress terrace), a place that inspired

'70s rock stars including Jimi Hendrix and The Rolling Stones. This beautiful Atlantic city also seduced director Orson Welles, who shot Othello here — his time here is commemorated with a statue and a square named after him.

— it is not a good idea to sunbathe topless. It's also worth trying the local steam baths or hammam.

Where is the best place for shopping?

The Medina and mellah (the Jewish quarter) streets are winding open-air shopping malls. Besides the typical stores there are also jewelry, vegetable, spice and fish souks, as well as a second-hand souk and a flea market, La Joutia.

Take advantage of the reasonably-priced crafts including leather goods, lanterns and crafts made of thuya wood, a tree from this region.

Bring back some argan oil, a gold-coloured oil with health and beauty benefits that's extracted from the



Goats forage for argan nuts.



An interior view of the Riad al Madina.

fruit of a tree that's said to grow only in the Taroudant region around Essaouira and on the coast.

The argan tree is also responsible for one of the your stay's most memorable visuals — on the road from Essaouira to Agadir you can see flocks of goats perched in the top of argan trees, grazing on the fruit.

What and where should I eat?

Lots of fresh fish and seafood straight off the boat, a nice alternative to the tajine or traditional Moroccan stew.

For fresh fish, tajines and other specialties try the French-run Le Pâtio, (28 rue Moulay Rachid). Le Coquillage is at the fishing port and serves fish and seafood

On the web

- visitmorocco.com
- essaouira.com
- essaouira.org

fresh off the boats, with a view over the sea.

Dinner next to the fireplace or in the refreshing courtyard at Riad al Madina, (9 rue Attarine) is lovely.

Where should I stay?

Try the welcoming Riad al Madina, riadalmadina.com, in one of the main streets of the Medina. The interior of this former 19th century palace was restored, making it a simple but comfortable place to stay for guests who have included Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.



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I've been here before. What should I visit this time?

Hit the beach. Windsurf and kitesurf lovers make a pilgrimage here for the optimum weather conditions. Moulay Bouzerktoun and Sidi Kaouki are the enthusiasts' most popular beaches.

Although there is a tolerant spirit in the city, which has been a gathering point of many religions throughout history, you should bear in mind local customs

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Foot-friendly NYC?

New York City will ban vehicles from two notoriously congested stretches of Broadway to ease traffic in the Times Square area. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the project would improve safety in prime tourist spots and make stores more accessible to pedestrians. **REUTERS**

Turkish delights

The **TravelJunkie**

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Mardin is a charming town in the Turkish region of southeastern Anatolia. Located high above the Tigris-Euphrates river basins, it's rich with religious tradition, historical significance and ancient sandstone architecture.

It's also home to tasty local snacks, from pomegranate salads to stuffed tripe to grape-syrup kebabs. Blending Turkish and Syrian flavours, Mardin fusion cuisine made for meals unlike anything I'd tried in other parts of the country.

Likewise, the celebrated Mardin eatery Cercis Murat Konagi isn't your typical Turkish restaurant. Overlooking the vast expanse of the scorching Mesopotamian plain, this former Armenian mansion dating back to the 1800s not only serves succulent Turkish cuisine, it also offers hands-on cooking courses for tourists.

Cercis Murat's four-hour cooking class began with a trip to market. Ebru Baydemir, a local celebrity entrepreneur known as the first female restaurateur in eastern Anatolia, took me to a lively commercial centre, where vendors hawked ripe, colourful vegetables.

On the hunt for ingredients, side-stepping the occasional donkey, we carefully selected a handful of deep purple eggplants, blood-red tomatoes, eye-watering onions and warm flatbreads. Supplies in hand, we returned to the kitchen, slipped on cloth hairnets, tied our aprons and got cooking.

Stirring, mixing, chopping and dicing, I learned cooking techniques from a crew of female chefs. In this region of Turkey, women don't traditionally work outside of the home, but Ebru (Baydemir) has broken new ground, giving local women a chance at employment.

Ebru told me that classes and meals can be customized according to tourists' interests but that icli kofte — fried, stuffed meatballs — is a classic dish. I followed her tutelage and got my hands dirty.

Wrist deep in cracked wheat, onion, mince and allspice, I shaped the falafel-like shells into egg-sized balls and plopped them into a skillet of searing hot oil.

The fragrant smell of onion and steaming mince filled the kitchen, a good indication of the gastronomic delights yet to come.

Stirring, mixing, chopping and dicing, I learned cooking techniques from a crew of female chefs. In this region of Turkey, women don't traditionally work outside of the home, but Ebru has broken new ground, giving local women a chance at employment.

The restaurant has become so popular that it's

won several awards for best views and has even attracted the attention of Prince Charles, who visited there with his royal entourage in 2004 for a private function.

As my kofte cooled, I was ready to dive into my next dish, Patlicanli pilav, a type of upside-down casserole made with lamb, chickpeas, onions, rice, eggplant and lots of cinnamon.

No doubt, the best part of a cooking class is eating your homework. Sitting at a rectangular table adorned with elegant silver cutlery and crisply folded napkins, I chowed down a delicious home-cooked feast.

Fingers drizzling with lamb juice, the chefs (and my taste buds) agreed that the meal was a success. It was worth the charge of 100 lira (about \$75 Cdn), a fee that includes a trip to the market, all the ingredients and lessons.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Mardin

How to get there: Turkish Airlines offers daily, direct two-hour flights from Istanbul to Mardin; see thy.com.

Where to stay: Erdoba Konaklari is a charming boutique hotel in the heart of the old town. The historic mansion has wide stone terraces and rooms overlooking Mesopotamia; see erdoba.com.tr.

Where to eat: For more information about the Cercis Murat cooking school, visit cercismurat.com and click

on "translate this" to see the English version.

Places to visit:

- Sultan Isa Medresesi, the town's architectural highlight.
- Bazaar along Cumhuriyet Caddesi for some unique bargain shopping.
- Mardin Castle, a natural rock structure turned fortification.
- Mardin Museum for a look at 7th Century BC Assyrian pottery.

**JULIA DIMON/
FOR METRO CANADA**



Ebru Baydemir, owner of Cercis Murat, is a famous female entrepreneur in eastern Anatolia.

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14 travel

Young, hip Lisbon hostels

Squeaky clean, elegant and well-located, a young crop of Lisbon hostels is reinventing the concept of a backpacker's inn, luring guests of all ages in these difficult times and sweeping the industry's own Oscars.

Dublin-based hostelworld.com recently named Portugal's capital the top location for hostels in the world in its Hostelworld Customer Annual Ratings, or Hoscars. Three Lisbon establishments were picked as No. 1 through No. 3 among 20,000 properties worldwide, and a fourth ranked in the top 10.

The ratings are based on some 800,000 travellers' reviews.

"There has been an explosion of hostels in Lisbon for the past year and a half and the quality of the hostels has been extraordinary," said Aisling White, marketing manager with Web Reservations International, Hostelworld's parent company.

"They really lead the way in an ongoing change of the image and standard of a hostel," White said.

Located in Lisbon's tourist-crammed downtown Baixa area, they are not far from the Tagus River and surrounded by historic monuments and dozens of typical pastry shops. These hostels are worlds away from the dirt-cheap, and often grimy student hostels dotting the outskirts of many European cities.

Cosy, brightly decorated chill out rooms with flat TV screens and free Internet would make many boutique hotels envious. Bathrooms are impeccably clean and dorms with bunk beds are far from barracks-ugly.

Dorms for up to eight people and a common bathroom are still typical of a hostel, although many also feature double rooms, making them more attractive for couples seeking some privacy.

During the global crisis, hostels become an attrac-

tive alternative, with a bed and breakfast to the tune of 18 euros, while a hotel room in the same part of town would top 70 euros.

"We can't complain about a lack of bookings, especially for double rooms. We are not really feeling the crisis, it's same as a year ago," said Valtor Pratas, 31-year-old painter turned co-owner of the Lisbon Lounge Hostel — the first private hostel in the city, opened five years ago and ranked No. 3 now.

"We now quite regularly receive small families or couples that, say, last time visited Lisbon and stayed in a hotel, but now have a little less money," he said.

Added White: "With the credit crunch, people are loathe to give up holidays so are choosing to do them a bit cheaper ... Due to the high standard of hostels in Lisbon it may prove to be hugely popular among people of all ages."

REUTERS



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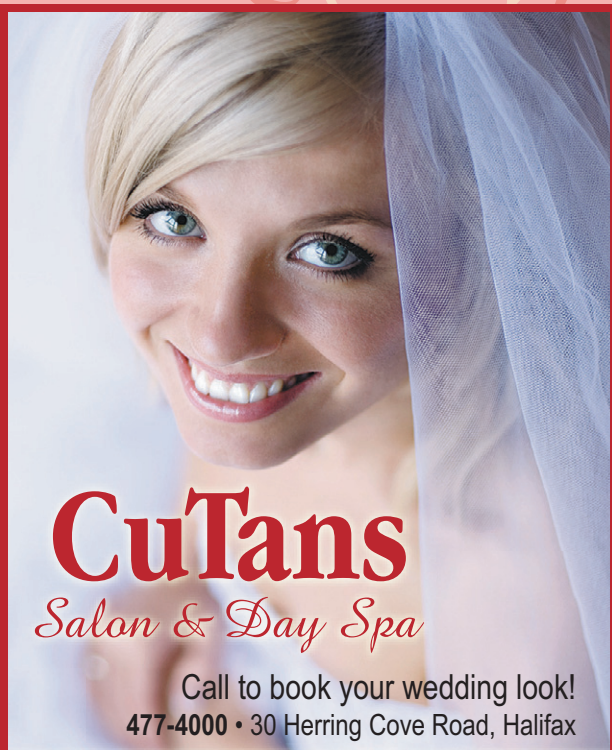
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Entertainment



Candy girl

Britney Spears has proved just how much she has turned her life around by landing a deal as spokeswoman for American clothing line Candies.

FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

No ordinary comic

New Watchmen film ventures into grim territory

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

This Friday, there is no doubt going to be a fair chunk of Metro readers that drop their hard earned duckets and file in to their local multiplex to see the latest Day-Glo pop pulp comic book blockbuster, the heavily hyped and mass merchandised epic Watchmen.

But before you do friends, you'd be wise to take a moment and read the following passages, a primer to the most anticipated film of the year thus far.

First of all dear readers, be aware that this is not your daddy's brand of su-

perhero saga and those expecting the movie to be in line with the PG rated likes of Spider-Man or X-Men should give their collective heads a shake.

Based on the beloved cult graphic novel by cantankerous British visionary Alan Moore, Watchmen ventures into the very essence of grim and takes few prisoners. The emotionally disturbed, semi-retired, latex-wearing crusaders who populate the picture are the opposite of heroic, they're anti-heroes straight out of the most nihilistic film noir and their helpful attempts to save lives don't always end well.

As directed by Zack Snyder, the guy who splashed

Movie feature

buckets of blood over the rock hard abs of the screaming Spartans in 300, and who two years prior to that unleashed a cannibalistic zombie apocalypse in his remake of Dawn of the Dead, the film is also one of the most brutally violent pictures of the year, littered with broken bodies and spraying arteries of every persuasion.

Violence isn't the only thing that sets Watchmen apart, the film is also graphically sexual to boot. If you've ever fantasized about Bat Girl hooking up with Captain America, then this movie is for you.

If not, well, you've been warned.

But perhaps most importantly, Watchmen is incredibly sophisticated entertainment, as intellectually and morally challenging as it is visceral and erotic. It asks its audience some pointed questions about the world they live in and refuses to pander to shrinking violet sensibilities.

So if you plan to see it, eat your greens, rest up and bring the biggest cup of caffeine you can fit into your cupholder (the film is almost three hours long) because Watchmen takes its pen and ink origins very seriously and expects its audience to do the same.



The emotionally disturbed, semi-retired, latex-wearing crusaders who populate Watchmen are the opposite of heroic, they're anti-heroes straight out of the most nihilistic film noir.

critics' corner

Gary Unmarried

Under ordinary circumstances, Gary (Jay Mohr) rarely lets ex-wife Allison's (Paula Marshall) fiance, Dr. Krandall (Ed Begley Jr.), ruffle his feathers, but he's plenty concerned when he notices how much time Krandall is spending with Gary's teenage son, Tom (Ryan Malgarini), and vows to bond more strongly with the boy himself. Jaime King and Kathryn Newton co-star in the new episode "Gary Toughens Up Tom." 9:30 PM on CBS



Being Erica

It's back to school again for Erica (Erin Karpluk). When she has trouble figuring out her feelings for Ryan (Dillon Casey), Dr. Tom (Michael Riley) sends her back to relive a relationship from her university days — a very unusual relationship that may give her some clues. Reagan Pasternak, Tyron Leitso and Devon Bostick also star in the new episode "Everything She Wants." 9 PM on CBC

The Exterminators

Billy faces a double challenge when he tries to get rid of a serious fire ant infestation — at a gator park, which means he has to brave a dozen alligators to carry out his job. As if that weren't enough to creep anybody out, he later has to stamp out one of the worst roach swarms he has seen in 20 years. 11:30 PM on A&E

Prince to release album at Target

MUSIC Prince has found an outlet for his latest collection of songs, recorded without a major label, by partnering with Target for a three-disc set, the retail chain said on Monday.

The album will be available at Target stores March 29. The collection has two original studio albums called LOTUSFLOW3R and MPLSoUND and a third disc titled Elixer by his latest protegee, the singer Bria Valente.

The three-disc set from Prince, which will sell for \$11.98 US at Target, is the latest instance of a recording artist partnering with a major retailer to release an album.

AC/DC released their chart-topping album Black Ice in October exclusively through Wal-Mart. REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Lost "LaFleur" (N)		America's Next Top Model (Season Premiere) (N)		Law & Order		
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went	Being Erica (N) (DVS)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (SC)	Les Invincibles (SC)	Le Téléjournal		
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	CSI: NY
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées (HDTV) (SC)	Dommages et intérêts (SC)	TVA 22 heures	
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	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY "Turbulence"	American Idol	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	News (N)		
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)	Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	American Idol	Lie to Me "Unchained"		Fox First	
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)	Life "Jackpot" (HDTV)	Law & Order	
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Capricorn	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Celtic Woman: The Greatest Journey			Chris Botti in Boston		
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	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live		Cooper 360	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Golf Videos	19th Hole	Top 10	Honda Classic Highlights	Haney Project
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	43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10: Alien	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken
	26	26	26	TREE	Wonder Pets	Big & Small (N)	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	In Real Life (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Canadian Geographic	Reel Insights		APTN National News: Contact		Miywayawin
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top	10 countdown. (Live)		Lean on Me ** (1989, Docudrama)	Morgan Freeman, Robert Guillaume.			
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield
family	25	25	25	CMT	All About	All About	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.		Reba	Reba
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	46	46	46	HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "Enigma"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	Born to Be	America's Best Dance Crew	Redemption	Redemption	Technical Diff.	Technical Diff.	Video on Trial
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	20 Greatest Celebreality Fight	Confessions
	201	201	201	M1	(6:15) The Messengers		Bratz * (2007, Comedy) Nathalia Ramos, Janel Parrish.				Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (2007)	
	48	23	23	OLN	American Gladiators		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker	Mantracker
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Payback ** (1999, Action) Mel Gibson, Gregg Henry.			Bounty Hunter
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) Monkey Shines		(8:10) Ignition (2002, Suspense) Bill Pullman.				Scream *** (1996, Horror)	
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)	Big Love
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted		Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Chop Shop (N)	Mr. Friday	Real Housewives of OC	Kimora: Fab
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "Exodus"		Star Trek: Voyager	Watchmen
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY "The Ride-In"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC's Ultimate Fight Night	
	57	98	98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist	Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Untold Stories of the E.R.		My Shocking Story		A New Face For Marlie	Mystery Diag.
	56	34	34	TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Humanima	Mixeur	Tei père, telle fille (2006, Com. dramatique)			Etoile
	28	28	28	V	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	SOUL (N)	Tuscany
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing	Mediums
	22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)	Stuck (N)
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (Season Premiere) (N)			MLB Baseball

Jackson set for summer concerts

Sky News is reporting that Michael Jackson will perform a string of concerts in London this summer. The 50-year-old will end his exile as a live performer by staging a residency at the O2 Arena. ANANOVA.COM



One week with Jackson

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Joshua Jackson has been pretty tired lately — but then that's what you get for having a somewhat manic job.

"I was on my knees Hoovering brains off a carpet two days ago," the Canadian-bred actor shockingly admitted during a recent stop in Toronto.

While that revelation might sound disturbingly morbid at first, consider the context.

After all, Jackson's clean-up was taking place on the set of his new hit sci-fi TV show *Fringe* — one of the main reasons for his hectic schedule.

The other? Returning from Hollywood to his homeland to promote his latest movie, *One Week* — opening Friday — in which Jackson plays a young man who copes with a terminal disease by traversing the Great White North on a motorcycle.

"It's a celebration of the many Canadas," said Jackson, admitting the film's patriotic affection was part of the draw.

"There's so much to do between here and Tofino and because it's a road movie, which is unusual, you actually get to see and experience much of the country instead of one specific region."

And that is just what Jackson and director Mike McGowan did — travel across Canada with just a tiny film crew. Although he is no stranger to the road, Jackson admits it



Joshua Jackson plays a man who copes with a terminal disease by traversing the Great White North on a motorcycle in *One Week*.

"That you can pay five bucks to walk a staircase to get into the mouth of a giant Tyrannosaurus Rex in the middle of the prairies is fantastic."

Joshua Jackson

was a gruelling challenge.

"I used to do the road trip between Vancouver and Wilmington, N.C., where I used to (shoot Dawson's Creek) every

year, so I've done that a ton but I never went Vancouver to Toronto and south.

"To be honest, I always thought the prairies would be kind of boring."

Instead, Jackson's "big revelation" was discovering the beauty of the flat, humbling expanse of land and the hidden treasures along its stretch of highways.

One of the pure joys of watching *One Week* is encountering such bizarre Canadian roadside attractions as the Wawa Goose

and the giant nickel in Sudbury. "The dinosaur (in Drumheller) was just so fabulously ridiculous," Jackson said of his favourite stop.

"That you can pay five bucks to walk a staircase to get into the mouth of a giant Tyrannosaurus Rex in the middle of the prairies is fantastic."

Coming to theatres

- *One Week* opens in theatres on Friday.



Members of Spinal Tap musicians and comedians Christopher Guest, from left, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer.

Spinal Tap back on tour

TOUR It's no joke. The comedic trio behind Spinal Tap are hitting the road for a 30-city North American tour next month, and are leaving their heavy-metal guises at home.

Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer — accomplished musicians who have been playing together since 1978 — said Monday they will perform music from their Spinal Tap days as well as from subsequent film collaborations like the folk-music spoof *A Mighty Wind*.

They performed a few songs and took questions during a news conference held on the 25th anniversary of the release of the influential mockumentary *This Is Spinal Tap*, in which the Americans played deluded English headbangers.

The cult hit spoofed situations that have rung eerily true for real-life bands, such as getting lost while

trying to make their way to the stage, being confounded by malevolent stage props, or dealing with problematic drummers.

The film also popularized phrases such as turning the volume "up to 11." And when artists explain away their waning popularity by saying that "their appeal is becoming more selective," it's an inadvertent quote from the movie.

The trio never made a dime from the Rob Reiner-directed movie, their manager Harriet Sternberg told Reuters. The film is now owned by French firm StudioCanal. Sternberg said no attempt has been made to recover any royalty income.

REUTERS

Wigs off

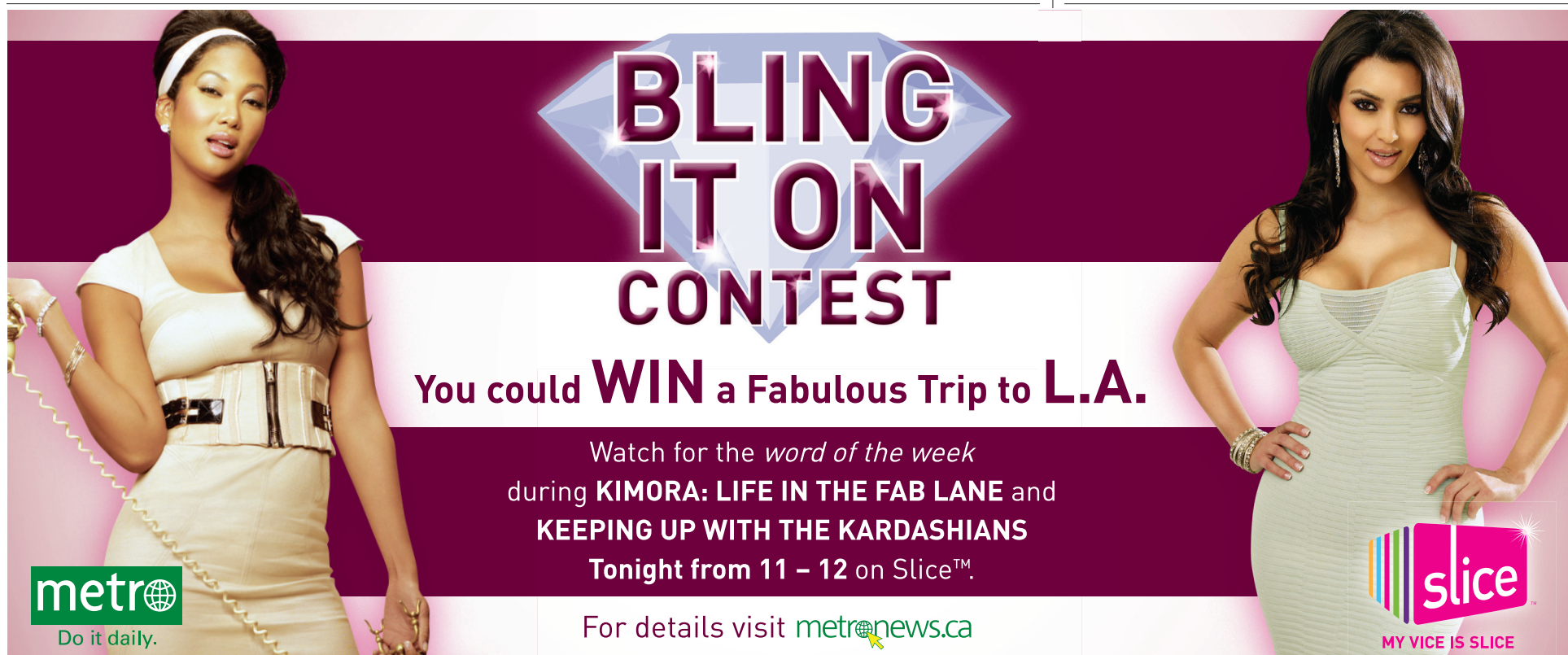
- The trio's Unwiggled & Unplugged theater tour begins April 17 in Vancouver, B.C., and runs through May 31 in Milwaukee.

In brief

EDUCATION A university in Liverpool has launched a Master of Arts degree in The Beatles,

the city's most famous sons, and called the qualification the first of its kind.

REUTERS





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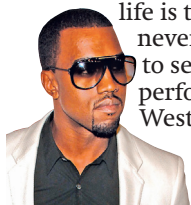
Sharon Osbourne is being sued by a woman she allegedly attacked on her VH1 show, Rock of Love: Charm School, TMZ.com reports. Megan Hauserman reportedly filed a lawsuit in L.A. County Superior Court Monday against Osbourne, adds usmagazine.com. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

'I am God's vessel': Kanye

PEOPLE Kanye West has a pretty high opinion of himself. In fact, the rapper believes he was chosen by God to have superior music ability.

"God chose me. He made a path for me. I am God's vessel," West said during a taping for the VH1 Storytellers series. "But my greatest pain in life is that I will never be able to see myself perform live," West added.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nicole loves Keith's sexy shots

PEOPLE Nicole Kidman's musician husband, Keith Urban, famously posed for Playgirl magazine eight years ago, but his wife hadn't seen the steamy photos until recently — and she wasn't let down.

"Nicole was impressed with the shots," Urban tells Britain's New magazine. "It was spread over two pages and had staples in all the right places."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jonas Bro's antics turns Emma off

PEOPLE Emma Roberts no longer has a crush on Nick Jonas — who's dated Miley Cyrus and Selena Gomez — because "he's kind of making his rounds in Hollywood," reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The 18-year-old actress claims the 16-year-old Jonas Brother's busy love life has put her off.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reunion sparks concerns

SCANDAL Rihanna may have spent the weekend in Miami with Chris Brown, but her family isn't quite ready for the tumultuous couple to reunite, people.com reports.

"Everyone wants them to take a break, to cool off," a relative of Rihanna tells People after the pair returned to Los Angeles together Monday. "No one wants them back together."

Family thought that the relationship was over after Brown al-

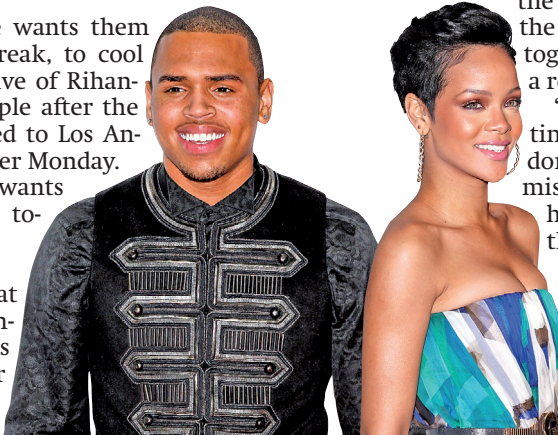
legedly battered Rihanna on Feb. 8. The couple went their own ways for a while — he went home, while she recuperated in Barbados and Mexico — but the

separation was short-lived.

The pair reunited in Miami last weekend, spending time at the Star Island mansion of Sean (Diddy) Combs. A source close to the couple told People that the couple was "definitely together" and working on a reconciliation.

"I'm concerned," continues the relative. "I don't want her to make a mistake, and I don't want her to ever go through this again."

The couple left Miami early Monday morning on the same plane, arriving in Southern California.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

So kill me, I wear a bikini: Miley

PEOPLE Miley Cyrus has quit jogging to stop people discussing her breasts, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 16-year-old star has been left furious after she was accused of flaunting her curves by wearing a bikini top during an outdoor run with her boyfriend, claiming her choice of clothing is no one else's business.

The Hannah Montana actress said: "I don't get the big whoop, but whatever. I guess it's just ... I'm not allowed to jog any more."

Miley was criticized after she was photographed in a skimpy top and shorts while exercising with her 21-year-old boyfriend, underwear model Justin Gaston, who was topless.

Miley claims she was only wearing the bikini as her eight-year-old sister Noah wanted her to help clean vehicles.

She added to KIIS FM radio host Ryan

Seacrest: "My sister wanted to have a car wash. So I was like, 'OK, we're going to have a car wash.' It's, like, 100 degrees out."

"As I'm running, it got a little bit lower and you could see a little of the bathing suit top. So, oh my goodness, Miley Cyrus wears a two-piece! Kill me! I'm wearing a two-piece, with an eight-year-old."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

No Brangie drama: Jennifer

PEOPLE Jennifer Aniston tells Elle U.K. magazine she doesn't owe anybody her side of the story regarding her relationships with ex-husband Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, msn.com reports.

"There are no sides! There is no bad guy

and there is no good guy. There are no villains and there is no heroine in this story. It's just not the case," the actress tells the publication.

She continues, "I remind myself every day that I am lucky. Look

what's out there. Look what people are really living through. There's no comparison. I am happy."

Jennifer recently presented the animation Oscars alongside Jack Black while cameras cut to Brad and Angelina in the audience. The actress is the cover girl of this month's Elle U.K. magazine, on sale this Wednesday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



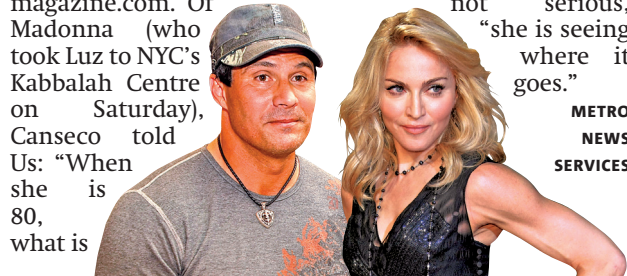
Isn't she 60?: Canseco

PEOPLE Jose Canseco can't get over the fact that his 50-year-old ex Madonna is dating 22-year-old Brazilian model Jesus Luz, usmagazine.com reports.

"Oh, my God! Doesn't she realize she is 60 years old? Come on!" he told usmagazine.com. Of Madonna (who took Luz to NYC's Kabbalah Centre on Saturday), Canseco told Us: "When she is 80, what is

she going to date — a guy who is 10 years old? It's getting crazy!"

Madonna doesn't seem to mind their nearly 30-year age difference. A source close to the singer recently told Us Weekly that while she and Luz are not serious, "she is seeing where it goes."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay converting?

RELIGION Lindsay Lohan has reportedly found a new way to express her devotion to rumoured girlfriend Samantha Ronson: The Mean Girls star is converting to Judaism, according to Perez Hilton.

Lohan and Ronson were spotted attending services at a syn-

agogue in London last week before hitting the bar mitzvah for Ronson's half-brother. And as speculation over Lohan's faith escalated, the starlet updated her Facebook status to read: "I'm converting."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Art imitates life for Lauren

CAREER It looks like art is imitating life for Lauren Conrad, people.com reports.

The star of The Hills reveals on her MySpace blog that her new book, L.A. Candy — which is "loosely inspired" by her own experience — follows the story of 19-year-old girl named Jane Roberts "who moves to L.A. and unexpectedly becomes the star of a reality television show."

In the book Jane's best friend is named Scarlett.

The novel, the first in a three-book series being published for young adults by HarperCollins, will be released June 16.

"Some of the characters may symbolize people in my life," writes Conrad, who has gone through a multitude of drama on the MTV series, "But it is in no way calling anyone out."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

ROCK LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING.

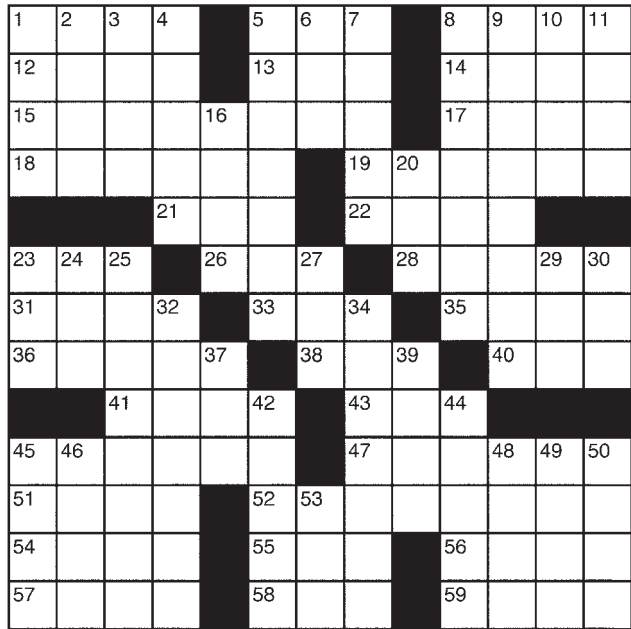
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Take Five



Crossword across

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Glaswegian gal | 23 Docs' org. | 43 In medias — |
| 5 Denny Crane's field | 26 Conger, for one | 45 "Wuthering Heights" writer |
| 8 — Alto, Calif. | 28 Wails like a banshee | 47 Alibi |
| 12 Canyon phenomenon | 31 Offspring, often | 51 Carry on |
| 13 "A Chorus Line" song | 33 Vast expanse | 52 "Fiddler on the Roof" village |
| 14 Privy to | 35 Filthy material | 54 Staffer |
| 15 Miscellaneous written passages | 36 Eucalyptus eater | 55 Young chap |
| 17 Simple | 38 Last (Abbr.) | 56 Approach |
| 18 Indy's hat | 40 Whatever amount | 57 Pleased |
| 19 Whirlpool | 41 Uppercase | 58 Bond, e.g. |
| 21 Zilch | | 59 Skin art, for short |
| 22 Apiece | | |

Crossword down

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Emblem on Canada's flag | 29 Sister |
| 2 Dermatologist's case | 30 Pigpen |
| 3 Roe source | 32 On an angle |
| 4 Wise lawgiver | 34 "So soon?" |
| 5 Spots | 37 Suitable |
| 6 Pismire | 39 Libretto |
| 7 Use a loom | 42 Easter stickers |
| 8 Stabs | 44 Bloodhound's clue |
| 9 Curse | 45 Put your feat in your mouth |
| 10 Mislaid | 46 Bar |
| 11 Cameo stone | 48 Eye layer |
| 16 One of HOMES | 49 Old card game |
| 20 Erstwhile acorn | 50 "I'm all —" |
| 23 Request | 53 Siesta |
| 24 Cow's comment | |
| 25 Big snake | |
| 27 Romanian money | |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	3	4	7	1	5	8	2	9
9	2	1	3	6	8	4	5	7
8	7	5	4	9	2	6	3	1
5	4	9	1	3	6	7	8	2
3	6	2	5	8	7	1	9	4
1	8	7	2	4	9	5	6	3
4	5	3	8	2	1	9	7	6
7	1	6	9	5	3	2	4	8
2	9	8	6	7	4	3	1	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Middle Eastern Lentil Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/3 cup (325 ml) dried brown or green lentils, rinsed
- 1 garlic clove, peeled but left whole
- Good pinch of ground cumin
- 1 slice lemon
- 1 2/3 cup (400 ml) broccoli florets
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) dried apricots, roughly chopped
- 1 each small red, yellow and green pepper, seeded and cut into 3/4-in. (2-cm) dice
- 1 3/4 oz (50 g) firm rindless goat's cheese
- Toasted sunflower seeds to garnish

LEMON AND CORIANDER

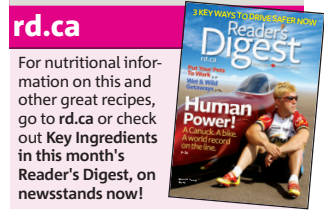
DRESSING:

- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) finely chopped fresh coriander leaves
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD:

- Put lentils into pot, cover with water and bring to boil. Add garlic, cumin and lemon, reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes, or until lentils are tender. Drop broccoli florets into pot of boiling water and blanch 2 minutes or until broccoli are slightly softened but still crisp. Drain and set aside.
- Meanwhile, put lemon juice, oil, coriander, salt and black pepper into large salad bowl, and whisk.
- Drain lentils, discarding lemon and garlic. Tip into salad bowl and toss gently.
- Add onion, apricots, peppers and broccoli florets and mix gently. Crumble cheese over top, garnish with sunflower seeds and serve immediately.

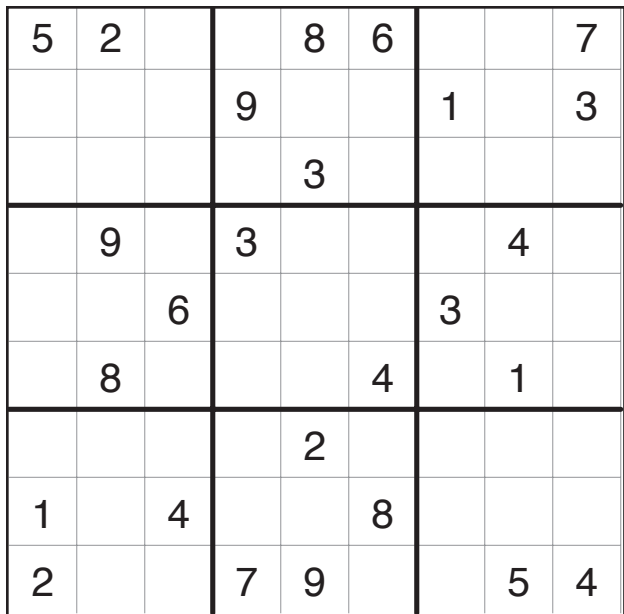
SERVES 4



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You'll appreciate an apparent contradiction. A quarrel causes hard feelings. Your hopes will brighten after noon.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A receptive friend is more exciting than usual. Job activity heightens your tension. A deep-voiced man runs off with his favourite lady.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't call off a meeting before your point is made. A man complains about your behaviour. A kind friend needs your attention.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Greedy people want more than they deserve. An admirer is starry-eyed. Friends won't help a self-defeating associate.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Animal magnetism causes hearty laughter. Be on call for a former sweetheart. A message left on a machine exceeds expectations.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Secret messages share the recipe for bliss. Start showing attention to an older relative. End a troublesome situation painlessly.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The standing of a plan begins to improve. Don't be arrogant with an aloof woman. Something inside you causes embarrassment.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A wicked witch's integrity is challenged. A mother tries to get away with a lie. Good stuff happens in a meditative state.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone will communicate as effectively as possible. Profound feelings about a romance are disruptive. Restrain your sarcasm with a jovial person.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone wants you in the picture. Be optimistic that you'll find a dream job. Your confidence brings good luck.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A bashful guy makes dramatic promises. A man needs to be set straight on personal choices. An obnoxious pest will get stuck.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A secret enemy is a friend. An insecure female wants you to impose discipline. Witness a fair-minded friend's change of attitude.



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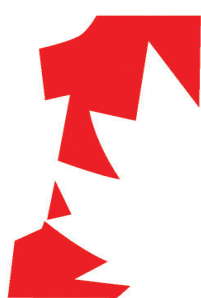


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